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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

ECONOMIC

SOVIET ECONOMIC OFFER TO CONGO -- Brussels, La Libre Belgique, 7 Aug 60

CPYRGHT

According to a well-informed African source, Pierre Elengessa, a Congolese student who has resided in the USSR for one year, has now returned to Leopoldville. In talks with the Congolese Council of Ministers, Elengessa is reported to have said that the USSR is now ready to offer Soviet capital and technicians for building factories and various industries in the Congo. The interest rate would probably be 2.5 percent a year. The Soviet technicians would be paid by the USSR and would leave the Congo as soon as Congolese technicians are fully trained by them. According to the source, Elengessa is reported to have told the Council of Ministers that the USSR has advised the Congolese not to permit the establishment of NATO bases in the Congo and not to become NATO or Common Market members. Elengessa is now said to be awaiting the approval of the Council of Ministers to return to the USSR.

FREE FOOD AT FIELD CAMPS -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 8 Jun 60

CPYRGHT

Free food is being provided at all the field camps of the "Politotdel" Kolkhoz, the largest kolkhoz in Verkhne-Chirchikskiy Rayon (Tashkent's Oblast, Uzbek SSR). On the first day, over 800 artel members received free dinners. The board decided that the kolkhozniks will receive free food during the whole field-work period, until November. Some 500,000 rubles was allocated from the indivisible fund for this.

[Comment: This is the first press indication noted by FDD that free food is being issued to kolkhozniks.]

STANDARD OF LIVING IMPROVED -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 14 Jun 60

CPYRGHT

The Soviet people have begun to eat and dress better and to buy more consumer goods. A study of the budgets of 15,000 workers' families in a number of industrial centers conducted by statistics organs and trade unions showed that consumption per member of a worker's family in 1959 increased over 1953 as follows (in percent): meat and meat products, 46; milk and dairy products, 74; eggs, 59; fish and fish products, 21; confectioneries, 24; butter, 35; and fresh fruit, 74. However, in the same time, consumption of bread decreased 15 percent, and potatoes, 8 percent.

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CPYRGHT

In the last 4 years, 10 million sewing machines, about 18 million radio receivers and television sets, and 89 million watches and clocks were sold to the Soviet population. At present, over one third of all watches, clocks, and radio receivers, a little less than half of the sewing machines, and 56 percent of the bicycles purchased are for rural consumption.

DEEP DRILLING FOR PETROLEUM -- Budapest, Figyelo, Vol IV, No 26, 30 Jun 60, p 9

CPYRGHT

The Hungarian petroleum industry is preparing to make exploratory drillings to a depth of 5,000-6,000 meters in the Transdanubian oil fields. According to recent instrument readings, there is a possibility of oil deposits at this depth, below the currently worked layer at 3,000 meters.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

RADIATION IN PETROCHEMICAL PROCESS -- Bucharest, Rominia Libera, 2 Aug 60

CPYRGHT

Used uranium bars from the nuclear reactor of the Institute of Atomic Physics have replaced the catalyst potassium permanganate in the oxidation of paraffins at the "SIN" Enterprise in Bucharest since early 1960. This new process costs only about one thirtieth as much and results in yearly savings of tens of thousands of kilograms of potassium permanganate for the enterprise. The process is based on the use of radiation from cobalt 60 radioisotope in the oxidation. Theoretical studies regarding the utilization of ultraviolet and ultrasonic rays to oxidize paraffin clarified certain aspects of the new process, allowed researchers to improve the technological process, and resulted in considerably reducing the strength of the radioactive source.

Further advantages of this process are the simplification of the technological process, the better quality of products obtained, and the more than 30-percent increase in the installation's productivity, according to the researchers' calculations. It is employed in existing installations, the only addition being the source of radiation. Since radioisotopes are used as an indirect source of radiation in this system, the products obtained cannot contain even the slightest trace of radioactivity. This process is the result of close collaboration among researchers of the Institute of Chemical Research (radiochemistry laboratory), the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute (laboratory of general organic technology), the Institute of Atomic Physics, and technicians of the "SIN" Chemical Enterprise.

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SOCIOLOGICAL

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN EAST GERMANY -- Berlin, Informationsbuero West,
9 Aug 60

CPYRGHT

About 2,000 foreign students are now studying at colleges and universities in the Soviet Zone of Germany, with about 500 admitted annually. In the past few years, the national composition of foreign students has shifted from the socialist countries to the new African countries and Asian and Latin American countries. Foreign students were first admitted to Soviet Zone colleges in 1951, beginning with Nigerian students at Leipzig; costs for this training were paid by the FDGB (Free German Trade Union Federation). Koreans and Vietnamese followed. Prior to study in the Soviet Zone schools, most of the foreigners attend the Institute for Study for Foreigners at Karl-Marx University in Leipzig to learn the German language. This institute was established in 1956 as an outgrowth of the department for foreigners in the university's "Worker and Peasant School."

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